THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) CPWD has taken up works of augmentation and provision of fire safety arrangements, to conform to the requirements of the Delhi Fire Safety Act, 1986 and the rules framed thereunder, in high-rise buildings maintained by them which have deficiencies. In addition, departments/offices occupying buildings have been advised to ensure fire safety through periodic inspections, paying particular attention to areas which are potential fire hazards and through proper house keeping.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Delhi fire service is ensuring this aspect before issue of No Objection Certificate for occupation of Government buildings and other public places.

Floor Price for Pepper

1213. SHRI PALA K. M. MATHEW: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the longstanding demand from the farmers to fix the floor price for Pepper;

(b) whether the Government propose to fix the floor price for Pepper;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Since major part of the production of pepper is exported, its price stabilisation programme will have to be considered taking into consideration both domestic and international prices as well as production and internal demand. Already, prevailing domestic prices of pepper are not very competitive in the international market. Any kind of price support operation would further increase the FOB cost of our pepper, making it further uncompetitive and may result in fall in exports.

Production of Alumina Plant at Damanjodi, Orissa

1214. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of Alumina Plant at Damanjodi in Orissa is not upto the target this year;

(b) if so, the reasons for the shortfall; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to increase the production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) During April-June quarter of 1991, the production of Alumina from the Alumina Plant of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) at Damanjodi has been 95.88% of the target of 1,80,000 tonnes.

(b) and (c) The marginal shortfall of 7,400 tonnes is due to one of the calciners being down for routine maintenance during this period. The shortfall is expected to be made good in the July-September quarter of 1991.

Telephone Facilities to Gram Panchayats in Marathwada District of Maharashtra

1215. SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any scheme to provide one telephone